

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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R 170607Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4760

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4784

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PK, CH, US

SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S COMMENTS ON HIS CHINA VISIT

1. MY FAREWELL MEETING WITH BHUTTO BEFORE MY DEPARTURE ON CONSULTATION WAS SOMEWHAT LACKING IN THE EASY RAPPORT THAT NORMALLY HAS BEEN THE CASE. A LOW LEVEL NOTE-TAKER FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS PRESENT AND THIS MAY HAVE BEEN AN INHIBITING FACTOR ON US BOTH. BHUTTO DID NOT, OF COURSE, KNOW WHY I CAME TO SEE HIM, BUT HE COULD HAVE SENT THE NOTE-TAKER AWAY. HE MAY HAVE BEEN QUITE TIRED, MAY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH HIS VISIT TO CHINA, OR PERHAPS HIS MIND WAS MORE ON THE RATHER SAD STATE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE PUNJAB, AS HE LEFT A MEETING WITH THE PUNJAB GOVERNOR TO SEE ME.

2. I ASKED HIM HOW HIS VISIT TO CHINA HAD GONE, AND HE TOLD ME QUITE WELL. NEVERTHELESS, I LEFT WITH THE FEELING THAT HE PROBABLY DID NOT GET ANYTHING VERY SPECIFIC THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEKING FROM THE CHINESE. HE TOLD ME THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ALSO SECURITY AND MILITARY SUPPLY PROBLEMS. HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANYTHING SPECIFIC, NOR DID I EXPECT HIM TO IN THE PRESENCE

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OF HIS NOTE-TAKER.

3. I TOLD HIM OF MY COMING TRIP HOME TO DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS EVEN THOUGH, AS HE MUST REALIZE, THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS OF IMPORTANCE IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE ALMOST COMPLETELY PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER CURRENT MATTERS. OUR CONVERSATION ON OUR OWN MILITARY SUPPLY PROBLEM HERE WAS QUITE BRIEF AS THERE IS NOTHING REALLY NEW ON THIS ONE FOR US TO TALK ABOUT. HE DID SAY THAT THE PROBLEM WAS BECOMING MORE ACUTE FOR HIM AS TIME WENT ON, AND THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. THIS COMMENT ALSO LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE DID NOT COME BACK FROM CHINA WITH ANY PROMISES THAT WOULD EASE THE MILITARY SUPPLY PROBLEM IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY.

4. WE WERE INVITED BACK TO BHUTTO'S HOUSE FOR A DINNER, WHICH INCLUDED SOME OTHER AMBASSADORS, ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER OUR TALK ENDED. BHUTTO SEEMED STILL TO BE IN THE SAME MOOD AND NOT HIS NORMAL WITTY SELF. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GUESTS WERE NOT VERY SCINTILLATING, SO MAYBE IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE BAD DAYS.
BYROADE

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